

In the Claims:

Amend the claims as set forth below:

1. (Amended) A tendering station comprising:

a movable housing;

B1 a terminal removeably connected to said housing by a terminal interface for acquiring transaction information, said terminal having a display and a device for communicating information over a wireless communication network to an external central computer, and at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions; and

at least one peripheral device attached to said housing and coupled to said terminal by said terminal interface for conveying transaction information and related information to or from a user.

20 (Amended) A portable customer service station for facilitating a customer transaction in a shopping facility, said customer service station comprising:

B2 a movable housing;

a handheld terminal removeably connected to said housing by a terminal interface for acquiring transaction information, said terminal having a display, a wireless radio for communicating the information over a wireless communication network to an external central computer, at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions, and a scanner for reading bar code information;

a customer display attached to said housing and coupled to said terminal for displaying the transaction information and related information to a customer; and

a printer device for printing receipts or transaction reports.

31. (Amended) A portable tendering station for facilitating a customer transaction in shopping facility, said tendering station comprising:

a movable housing;

a cradle interface attached to said housing;

B3 a handheld terminal removeably connected to said cradle interface for acquiring transaction information, said terminal having a display, a wireless radio for communicating the information over a wireless communication network to an external central computer, at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions, and a scanner for reading bar code information; and

at least one peripheral device attached to said station and in communication with said terminal via said cradle interface for conveying the transaction information and related information to or from a customer, said at least one peripheral device being used to complete said transaction.

Rule 1.126 15 50. (Amended) A customer service station for facilitating a customer transaction in a shopping facility, said customer service station comprising:

B4 a housing;

an interface attached to said housing for receiving and transmitting transaction and related information over a wireless communication network to an external central computer; and

at least one peripheral device attached to said customer service station and coupled to said interface for conveying the transaction and related information to or from a customer, said at least one peripheral device being used to complete said customer transaction.

57. (Amended) system for providing tendering and customer services, comprising:

a host computer for processing transaction data;

B { a controller coupled to said host computer for communicating the transaction information to and from said host computer;

a wireless communication network coupled to said controller for communicating the transaction information to and from said controller; and

a portable station in communication with said wireless communication network for providing the transaction information to said network, said portable station comprising:

a movable housing;

a terminal removeably connected to said housing by a terminal interface for acquiring the transaction information, said terminal having a display and a device for communicating the information over said wireless communication network to an external central computer, and at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions; and

at least one peripheral device attached to said housing and coupled to said terminal by said terminal interface for conveying the transaction information and related information to or from a user.

63. (Amended) In a system wherein a host processor communicates with a plurality of mobile terminals using radio data communication, a method for controlling functions available to terminal users, comprising:

B6 issuing a terminal to a user;

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receiving identification data specific to said user on said terminal and communicating said identification data to said host processor;

operating said host processor to hierarchically determine authorized functions to be made available to said user, using said identification data;

communicating a message to said terminal identifying available authorized functions; and

operating said host processor to provide user selected ones of said authorized functions to said terminal.

64. (Added) In a retail establishment having a wireless data communications network, wherein there is provided at least one portable terminal arranged to be connected to a tendering station for completing a transaction, a method of servicing customers, comprising:

operating said portable terminal detached from said tendering station to communicate with a central computer over said wireless network to provide information to a customer;

attaching said portable terminal to a tendering station to communicate with peripheral devices on said tendering station to process a transaction; and

operating said terminal while attached to said tendering station to communicate transaction data to said central computer over said wireless network.